

We Claim:

1 1. An Internet charging system in a system having an information terminal
2 and a terminal server that provides Internet access service employing a public network
3 to the information terminal, comprising:

4 on the terminal server side,

5 a charging server for sequentially calculating an Internet usage fee which occurs
6 according to Internet usage by an Internet user through the information terminal;

7 a charging database having a charging table required for calculating the Internet
8 usage fee; and

9 a customer database having a customer table which includes information on a
10 customer as the Internet user through the information terminal, wherein,

11 on the terminal server side, the charging table which includes information on an
12 Internet access method, a method for displaying information for charging, and a
13 charging method associated with Internet access is periodically transmitted to the
14 information terminal, and

15 on the information terminal side,

16 the customer selects desired information from the information in the transmitted
17 charging table.

1 2. An Internet charging system in a system having an information terminal
2 and a terminal server that provides Internet access service employing a public network
3 to the information terminal, comprising:

4 on the terminal server side,

5 a charging server for sequentially calculating an Internet usage fee which occurs
6 according to Internet usage by an Internet user through the information terminal;

7 a charging database having a charging table required for calculating the Internet
8 usage fee;

9 a customer database having a customer table which includes information on a
10 customer as the Internet user through the information terminal;

11 an advertisement data controller for controlling an size and a display time of an
12 advertisement which is sent to the terminal server;

13 an advertisement content server for retaining contents of the advertisement;
14 a data traffic monitor server for monitoring data traffic of the Internet; and
15 a usage state monitor server for monitoring a state of Internet usage by the
16 customer, wherein

17 on the terminal server side, the charging table which includes information on an
18 Internet access method, a method for displaying information for the charging, and a
19 charging method associated with Internet access is periodically transmitted to the
20 information terminal,

21 on the information terminal side,

22 the customer selects desired information from the information in the transmitted
23 charging table, and

24 on the terminal server side,

25 an Internet access service providing method, an advertisement distribution
26 method, and the charging method associated with Internet access are changed according
27 to the state of Internet usage by the customer and the result of the selection by the
28 customer of the desired information in the charging table.

1 3. The Internet charging system as defined in Claim 1 or 2 comprising:
2 in the information terminal,
3 an access program for accessing the Internet;
4 a usage state monitor program for monitoring the state of Internet usage by the
5 customer;

6 an information terminal charging database having an information terminal
7 charging table which includes information required for calculating the Internet usage
8 fee; and

9 an access setting database having an access table which includes information on
10 plural providers such as phone numbers, ID numbers, passwords, thereby
11 automatically changing a provider.

1 4. The Internet charging system as defined in any of Claims 1 to 3 wherein
2 the charging table has

3 line usage fee information concerning a usage fee of the public network.

1 5. The Internet charging system as defined in any of Claims 1 to 4 wherein
2 the charging table has
3 advertisement size information concerning a size of the advertisement displayed
4 on the information terminal.

1 6. The Internet charging system as defined in any of Claims 1 to 5 wherein
2 the charging system has
3 advertisement number information concerning the number of advertisements
4 displayed on the information terminal.

1 7. The Internet charging system as defined in any of Claims 1 to 6 wherein
2 the charging table has
3 advertisement display time information concerning a display time of the
4 advertisement displayed on the information terminal.

1 8. The Internet charging system as defined in any of Claims 1 to 7 wherein
2 the charging table has
3 usage time-zone information concerning a time zone in which the client uses the
4 Internet.

1 9. The Internet charging system as defined in any of Claims 1 to 8 wherein
2 the charging table has
3 information on accumulated access time that is an accumulation of time for
4 which the customer uses the Internet.

1 10. The Internet charging system as defined in any of Claims 1 to 9 wherein
2 the charging table has
3 data packet amount information concerning an amount of data packets utilized
4 in the Internet.

1 11. The Internet charging system as defined in any of Claims 1 to 10 wherein
2 the charging table has
3 communication traffic state information concerning a communication traffic
4 state in the public network.

1 12. The Internet charging system as defined in any of Claims 1 to 11 wherein
2 the charging table has
3 electric commerce deal amount/frequency information, which concerns a deal
4 amount when the customer performs electronic commerce employing the Internet, and
5 a frequency of performing the electronic commerce.